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ACTION SS 70

INFO /070 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Stan Igelberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
IS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 231020Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5174
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3890
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2244
STTTE GRNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3823

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. TRAN VAN HUONG, IF ELECTED, PLANS TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND FOR VIETNAMESE, US AND FREE WORLD FORCES IN VIET NAM, ACCORDING TO NGUYEN VAN TRUONG, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION WHO IS HELPING TO DIRECT HUONG'S CAMPAIGN. TRUONG, SPEAKING WITH EMBOFF AUG 22, SAID THAT HUONG AND HIS ADVISORS HAVE AGREED THAT UNIFICATION OF COMMAND IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO PURSUE THE EFFECTIVELY WAS AND,

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HE IMPLIED, TO RELY ON THE PRESENCE OF THE US UNDER A JOINT COMMAND TO MODERATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VIETNAMESE GENERALS.

2. TRUONG ALSO REAFFIRMED HUONG'S INTENTION TO APPOINT A MILITARY MAN AS PRIME MINISTER, ALTHOUGH HE FAILED TO SECIFY WHO. TRUONG SPOKE RATHER FAVORABLY ABOUT GENERAL THIEU BUT HASTENED

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TO NOTE THAT THIEU COULD SERVE AS CHIEF OF JOINT GENERAL STAFF OR DEFENSE MINISTER AND THAT HE HAD SERVED AS DEFENSE MINISTER UNDER HUONG.

3. MUCH OF EVENING WITH TRUONG WAS DEVOTED TO THIS COMPLAINTS OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN THE CAMPAIGN AND UNWILLINGNESS OF GVN TO HELP CANDIDATES, SUCH AS WITH TRANSPORTATION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIAL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GVN IS NOW BEGINNING TO PROVIDE MORE HELP IN THAT REGARD BUT THERE IS STILL A LOT OF UNSHIPPED MATERIAL AT DIEN HONG HALL IN SAIGON AND "IT IS GETTING VERY CLOSE TO ELECTION DAY".

4. COMMENT: TRUONG DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF EITHER HUONG OR TRUONG'S SENATE LIST, DESPITE HIS PEERING INTO FUTURE IF HUONG SHOULD WIN. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION TRUONG GAVE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT HUONG, TRUONG, TRIEU ET AL WOULD NOT AGREE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT HEADED BY GENERALS AND WOULD BECOME VERY VOCAL PART OF OPPOSITION.

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